

TRANSBOUNDARY WATER AND LANDSCAPES SUSTAINABLE FINANCE BOOTCAMP



26–27 November 2025 | Glenburn Lodge and Spa, Muldersdrift

**Sustainable financing for joint impact in River Basin Organisations and
Transfrontier Conservation Areas of southern Africa, with a focus on the Great
Limpopo.**

1. INTRODUCTION

Africa's Transboundary Rivers

Thirteen major transboundary river basins occur across Africa, covering at least 62% of the total land area¹, including the Orange, Limpopo, Okavango, Incomati and Zambezi Basins in Southern Africa. Rivers provide several ecosystem services and life support mechanisms to people and biodiversity. This includes the provision of freshwater from source to sea and across landscapes, purification of water, flood attenuation, and groundwater replenishment among other services. Millions of people live along the banks of river systems, where they are used for food and medicine, a means for transport and other cultural and spiritual services².

Despite the significant importance of rivers to human and animal life, rivers in Africa face serious risks and threats driven by increased human population and unsustainable use, management and development. The security of the water ecosystems will require careful planning and deliberate Integrated Land and Water Resources Management (ILWRM) at the

¹ Merrey, (2009), In Medinilla (2018): <https://ecdpm.org/application/files/4916/5546/8721/African-river-basin-organisations-ECDPM-Discussion-Paper-236.pdf>

² King and Brown (2021) : <https://www.amacad.org/publication/africas-living-rivers-managing-sustainability#:~:text=Rivers%20are%20living%20ecosystems%20that,season%3B%20stabilization%20of%20banks%20and>

landscape level if we are to achieve SDG6– Water and Sanitation, SDG15– Life on Land through inland waters², and contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation³.

AFRICAN RIVER BASIN ORGANISATIONS AND TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREAS

River Basin Organisations (RBOs) are “*institutional bodies responsible for overseeing the development and management of water resources at the watershed level, meaning that they can be domestic or transboundary. RBOs can help improve water cooperation between stakeholders, promote economic development, environmental conservation, international trade, and regional integration*”⁴.

Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) aim to connect natural landscapes across country borders and to improve conservation in ecosystems that are split by political boundaries. There are 14 TFCA’s across SADC of varying status. The five main goals of the SADC TFCA Programme (2023–2033) include:

1. Effective management of shared landscapes and seascapes
2. Improving livelihoods through sustainable use of agriculture, wildlife, fisheries, forestry, tourism, and more
3. Strengthening governance, partnerships, and regional cooperation
4. Securing long-term funding for TFCAs
5. Building skills and knowledge for better decision-making and management

RBOs and TFCAs have recognised the need for joint project implementation to ensure effective conservation and water security benefits.

Financing Africa’s Inland Water Across Boundaries

As is the case in any nature-based imperative, the effective and sustainable financing of the management of inland waters remains a barrier to ensuring the conservation of our water ecosystems for people, livelihoods and biodiversity. In a discussion paper published by the OECD following a Roundtable on Financing Water in 2023, it was stated that there is a massive finance gap for water, where there exists significant **scope to mobilise sources of finance for water** in Africa more effectively.

³ OECD (2023): <https://www.oecd.org/water/background-note-diversifying-sources-of-finance-for-water-in-Africa-10th-rt-meeting.pdf>

⁴ GWP (2024): <https://www.iwrmactionhub.org/learn/iwrm-tools/basin-organisations>

While several challenges to financing water are noted in the paper, two key **opportunities** are outlined:

1. Strengthening the water policy investment framework and
2. Diversifying financing instruments and financing sources

Due to the role of RBOs in Africa, together with the cooperation with SADC TFCAs, there is an opportunity to coordinate and lead on determining the finance needs and finance opportunities to support context-based, cross-boundary and collaborative activities geared toward the sustainability of African river basins and TFCAs.

Innovative mechanisms need to be investigated to support cross-boundary landscapes and objectives over the long-term. The **knowledge and awareness of finance needs and opportunities** through diverse financing mechanisms across river basins and TFCA's needs to be enhanced across teams and stakeholders.

2. BOOTCAMP DETAILS

Description

The **Transboundary Water Sustainable Finance Bootcamp** will be hosted as a 2-day intensive five-part Bootcamp, targeted at the intersection of RBOs and TFCA's, with lessons from Blyde-Olifants catchment.

The Sustainable Finance Bootcamp is led through a collaboration between the Sustainable Finance Coalition, Global Water Partnership and Conservation International, with support from the German Government, under the SADC-German Transboundary Water Management (TWM) Programme⁵, and Global Affairs Canada through Conservation International.

Attendees will be put through their paces in unpacking sustainable finance principles, the inventory of finance solutions developed and applied by the Sustainable Finance Coalition and other innovators, finance solution Building Blocks and, finally, applying these principles to attendees' practical contexts.

Aim

The Bootcamp is aimed at increasing understanding of the principles of sustainable finance and viability for conservation of water resources at the transboundary landscape level, to

⁵ *Scaling the impact of thematic stakeholder exchanges on Transboundary Water Management in the SADC region Project*

enable attendees to apply these principles in their own contexts across landscapes and seascapes– source to sea.

Application to attendee’s contexts is achieved through dedicated plenary talks and breakaway sessions. The five-part program includes:

1. High-level talks by thought leaders to set the scene
2. Training session on Sustainable Finance and the Finance Model
3. Finance Solution Showcase
4. Deep dives and hands on learning through break-aways
5. Reflecting on the pathways to unlocking finance and achieving impact collaboratively

Importantly, the Bootcamp will share and leverage lessons from progress made in the GLTFCA.

Impact

The impact of the Bootcamp that is foreseen includes:

1. **Understanding:** A greater understanding of sustainable finance and finance for nature and how that translates across sectors and contexts;
2. **Replication:** Adoption of the Finance Model and understanding of matching and replicating the right finance solutions, for the right people, in the right places, including ongoing access to resources in the Finance Solution Inventory;
3. **Partnerships and collaboration:** Catalysing partnerships for scaling sustainable finance;
4. **Innovation:** Application of innovative thinking to identify new finance solutions for the African catchment context.

Bootcamp Structure

The multiple break-away sessions are aimed to expand on case studies and concrete examples so that participants can dive deep into the topic, explore specific solutions in specific sites/countries and identify next steps to equip participants with practical/take home resources on how to implement a specific finance solution in their context.

A detailed question and answer session will allow for understanding and potential replication of solutions. To support this session, tools such as surveys are used to make informed decisions on the content, approach and lessons learned. Further, knowledge resources will be provided, notably a Solution Sheet, which simply and practically explains each finance solution and its Building Blocks that ensure and enable the replication of each solution.

PART 1: SETTING THE SCENE

The Bootcamp will commence with representatives from the convening partners and selected thought leaders setting the scene around finance for nature in Africa. Notably, speakers from

a variety of sectors help raise awareness and enable cross-sectoral collaboration. This session is proposed to include an introductory **Plenary Key Note Talk: What is sustainable finance for nature in the context of transboundary land and water conservation.**

PART 2: SUSTAINABLE FINANCE 101

In this session, the Coalition unpacks several key elements to build a foundation of knowledge on sustainable finance and what is required to identify and implement the right finance solutions, including:

1. **Sustainable Finance 101**– The ‘Finance Pie’ for closing the finance gap for nature, funding vs financing and the characteristics of finance solutions.
2. **The Finance Model**– FIND, DESIGN and MOBILISE Sustainable Finance for any given context.

PART 3: FINANCE SOLUTION SHOWCASE

This session will see the showcasing and discussion of various concrete and innovative finance solutions and their Building Blocks to success.

The Coalition’s [Finance Solution Inventory](#) will be leveraged for engagement as a first-of-its kind and African-led knowledge hub if finance solutions targeted toward nature.

PART 4: FINANCE SOLUTION BREAK-AWAY GROUPS

The three introductory sessions are followed by break-away sessions dedicated to specific finance solutions, their Building Blocks and their application to the Transboundary water and landscapes context.

Three break-away groups are proposed: Tax Incentives, Environmental Funds and Bonds. Each participant will have the opportunity to attend each break-away.

PART 5: COLLABORATING FOR IMPACT: PATHWAYS TO UNLOCKING FINANCE

The closing session will include a plenary recap of the most important key messages from the two days, the pathways to unlocking finance and the importance of collaboration in effectively and efficiently unlocking finance for the benefit of nature and people.

Measuring Knowledge and Capacity

Surveys assist in assessing attendees’ perception of their knowledge around sustainable finance and finance solutions prior to the Bootcamp and again post the bootcamp. This measures attendee’s improvement in their knowledge and enhanced confidence and capability to pursue opportunities.

Agenda

The programme will run over two days from 26–27 November, at Glenburn Lodge and Spa, Muldersdrift. The daily programme starts at 08:30 and ends at 16:00.

Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/PdR8Wq1Y5WGajd72A>

DAY 1		
PART 1: SETTING THE SCENE		
08:30	Morning refreshments	
9:00	High-level Welcome and Opening	Dr Patrice Kabeya Senior Programme Officer –SADC Water Division Gwinyai Muti International Coordinator, GLTFCA Sergio Siteo Executive Secretary, LIMCOM
10:00	Plenary Keynote Talk The intersection of sustainable finance and water.	Candice Stevens , CEO and Founder, Sustainable Finance Coalition
10:20	Tea and light snacks	
11:00	Strategic Panel Discussion Structured chat with key role players in financing transboundary land and water conservation across the private and government sectors.	Moderated by Justin Smith Candice Stevens , CEO and Founder, Sustainable Finance Coalition Nandha Govender , Eskom, Strategic Water Partnership Network, co-chair of the DWS Water and Sanitation Sector Leadership Working Group Deo Onyanga , Senior Industry Specialist, Sustainable Finance, IFC Samir Randera-Rees , WWF Nedbank Green Trust Manager
11:45	Audience Q&A with Panelists	Moderated by Justin Smith
12:00	Lunch	

13:00	Initiatives across the Limpopo–Olifants–Source to Sea - GLTFCA–LIMCOM Freshwater Resources Management Strategy - K2C Catchment Investment Programme - Massingir Dam Master Plan - Pafuri–Xai Xai	Moderated by Piet Theron and Dr Eddie Riddell With input from Dr Danny Govender, SANParks, Nick Theron, K2C and Steve Collins, GiZ <u>Piet Theron</u> is the Senior Director: Conservation Strategy & Development – Southern Africa, Conservation South Africa / Conservation International. <u>Eddie Riddell</u> is the Regional Coordinator Limpopo Basin GEF7–IW Program.
PART 2: SUSTAINABLE FINANCE 101		
14:30	Making the Case for Sustainable Finance The Finance Pie Understanding funding versus sustainable finance Finance Solutions The Finance Model Unlocking sustainable finance for conservation– The Finance Model to FIND, DESIGN and MOBILISE. An introduction to the Finance Solution Inventory The first-of-its kind and African led–knowledge on finance solutions targeted toward nature conservation.	Kyra Lunderstedt, Strategic Lead, Sustainable Finance Coalition
16:00	SESSION CLOSURE	

DAY 2

PART 3: FINANCE SOLUTION SHOWCASE

08:30	<i>Morning refreshments</i>	
9:00	Welcome and recap	Kyra Lunderstedt
09:15	Finance Solution Inventory: A Showcase The session is a showcase of fiscal, private and blended finance solution types and opportunities. See website: https://inventory.sfcoalition.org.za/	Justin Smith Ellane van Wyk Head of Implementation, Sustainable Finance Coalition
10:30	<i>Tea and light snacks</i>	

PART 4: FINANCE SOLUTION BREAK-AWAY GROUPS

11:00	Introduction to the Break-away groups and logistics <u>Description:</u> Three sessions through the day will include all three break-away topics. Attendees will have the opportunity to join 3 offered breakaways through the course of the day. <u>Structure:</u> Expert overview of the type of finance solution Tailor-making of the finance solution and discussion of an example. Applying to the Transboundary and water context- opportunities and challenges. <u>Duration:</u> Each break-away will be 45 minutes with time to transition between. <u>Break-away clusters:</u> GLTFCA-LIMCOM Lubombo TFCA - INMACOM Maloti - ORASECOM <u>Break-away topics</u> 1. Environmental Fiscal Benefits used for conservation and behavioral change (Lead by Ellane van Wyk) 2. Funds -catalysing investment for positive land and sea outcomes (Lead by Kyra Lunderstedt) 3. Bonds- Solutions for Water and lessons from GLTFCA (Lead by Justin Smith)	Kyra Lunderstedt
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11:15	Break-away session 1	1 x Coalition, 1 x CI/GWPSA
12:00	Lunch	
13:00	Break-away session 2.	1 x Coalition, 1 x CI/GWPSA
13:45	Transition time and quick comfort break	
13:50	Break-away session 3	1 x Coalition, 1 x CI/GWPSA
14:35	Move back to Plenary and comfort break	
PART 5: COLLABORATING FOR IMPACT- PATHWAYS TO UNLOCKING SUSTAINABLE FINANCE ACROSS BOUNDARIES		
14:50	Reflections on the Bootcamp A participatory session gathering feedback	Kyra Lunderstedt
15:05	Scoping opportunities: A strategic session and call to action toward collaborating source to sea.	Piet Theron and Eddie Riddell
16:30	BOOTCAMP CLOSURE AND THANKS	